

texas tea newsletter

A home-brewed publisher devoted to exposing the secrets of the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, Texas.



in this issue

What's Brewing This Month ?

Continue on to read a personal statement from a former employee of TCCO and gather information for a future protest at the Capitol of Texas.

Want to Contribute?

Send your insights to texasteanewsletter@gmail.com or to P.O. Box 3226, San Marcos, Texas 78666 to be featured in the next issue!

let's spill the tea

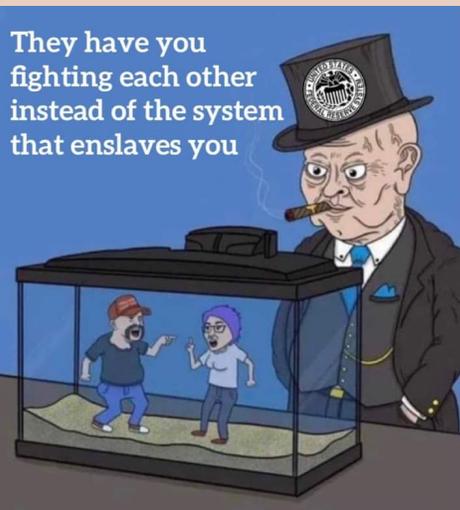
By the Editor

Greetings! I know it seems as though we are running a bit behind, but for us that is par for the course. Thank you as always for being patient.

Enclosed you will see that we are gearing up for another protest, this time at the Capitol of Texas. Please have your family members or support system reach out to us for any information or assistance!

I am letting you know, we at the Texas Tea Newsletter have received an enormous amount of mail, letters, statements etc. Please keep it coming! The more information and accounts we have against the Texas Civil Commitment Center, the better!

As always, we here at the Texas Tea Newsletter are vigilant and continuously working to provide news, updates, and crucial information to the families, friends, support systems, and residents within. Just know that as we sip our tea, we are thinking about you.



Restricted Communication

By a Former TCCO Employee

Imagine all the people you speak to every day. Do you call them on the phone? Or maybe you get cards and letters in the mail on special occasions, birthdays, or anniversaries. When you made the phone call to one of your family members, did you ask permission? Did someone tell you if you could begin a relationship with your significant other? Does your aunt or uncle have to explain to someone why they want to be in your life? None of this may apply to you, but this is the reality of the men imprisoned at the Texas Civil Commitment facility in Littlefield, Texas.

The men are subject to asking if they can speak to certain people or if they can have COLLATERAL CONTACTS. These are people their TCCO case manager says they can have contact with either by mail, phone, or visits. A resident must fill out a form and present it to their case manager detailing the relationship to that person before they can have any contact with them...if they get approved. Keep in mind the men at Texas Civil Commitment are FREE men already having completed their prison sentences for their crimes. You and I are free and we do not have to have permission; well at least I didn't have to before April 14.

Men who have served years of prison sentences locked away behind bars and away from society are now FREE fighting for basic human rights. I addressed these rights in LET FREEDOM RING; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These men are trying to have some resemblance of a life even if they are still "incarcerated" in a treatment program.

Rights such as establishing and maintaining relationships with family members. The men are trying to regain liberty. Liberty is defined as 1. The quality or state of being free, a. the power to do as one pleases, b. freedom from physical restraint, c. freedom from arbitrary or despotic control, d. the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges. And lastly but not least, the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. That can be a whole list of things that these men have never seen or had the chance to experience having led very bleak, sad lives. Nowhere in TCCO rules does any of this fit in, nor is it encouraged.

In Resident Jonathan Hitt's lawsuit he describes how he had begun a relationship with a lady and had come forward to his case manager. As this information was presented to the TCCO higher-ups, he was met with dissatisfaction and accusations, additional rules placed on him, and unjustified cruel treatment, all resulting in violations to his civil rights. The civil rights, basic rights, that all humans are allowed.

By imposing restrictions on who, when, where, and how a resident interacts (with the exception of their victims) Texas Civil Commitment is in direct violation of their civil rights. Phone numbers, addresses, and names are scrutinized. Mail is screened, gone through, refused and sent back. Families are denied contact with their sons, brothers, husbands due to TCCO not finding them suitable. During Covid lockdown I witnessed men go weeks upon weeks without being ALLOWED to use phones to check on loved ones. Men went to the hospital sick and died alone due to these "rules" of not allowing contact. I sat by their side as they were dying, not their families.

TCCO wants to claim all sorts of reasons for restricting communication with the residents. I can only imagine the reasons they are going to give me. It has been over 80 days since I have seen my loved one. I never know if I will hear his voice again. I do not know if we will live the life we dreamed of. He was told I had already picked up and moved on with my life, but nothing is farther from the truth. On April 14 I began my sentence, and TCCO became my enemy. This is far from over.





Protest Announcement

By F.A.C.T.S. – FAMILIES AGAINST COMMITTING TEXANS STANDUP

Hello everyone!

It is that time again to gather and unite to have our voices heard!

We are traveling to the Capitol in Austin Texas on September 13th to advocate for our loved ones being imprisoned inside the Texas Civil Commitment facility in Littlefield Texas.

We will be staying at the Best Western located at 919 Koenig Lane in Austin. The number to make a reservation is ~ 512-454-1144. Please tell them you are with FACTS to receive a discounted rate.

If you are staying at the hotel on the 12th we will be meeting in the breakfast room the morning of the 13th around 8-8:30am.

If you are driving in on the morning of the 13th, we will meet you in front of the Capitol at around 9:45 am.

Parking is very affordable in the Capitol visitors parking garage located at ~

1201 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78701.

Our event will be from 10am to 1pm. We will be carrying signs and wearing our yellow “operation freedom” t-shirts. If you would like a shirt please contact me.

Please bring a chair if you need one.

If you need assistance getting to the event please reach out to me as soon as possible.

We appreciate all the support that you all have given to us. In this very stressful and devastating situation we have found so much love and support for our men and each other.

We will be heard! And that’s a FACT!

Sincerely,

F.A.C.T.S. – FAMILIES AGAINST COMMITTING TEXANS STANDUP

Jennifer Williams
(817) 501-3655

Mandi Brady
(806) 466-9159

TCCO Family and Support System Meeting

An Update from the TCCO Website

TCCO is hosting a Family and Support System Meeting for Family/Support System members of Clients in Tiers 1 through 5. Information regarding the Texas Civil Commitment Center and treatment program will be presented.

Date: Wednesday August 10, 2022

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: TCCO Headquarters

4616 W. Howard Lane

Building 2, Suite 350

Austin, Texas 78728

Individuals wishing to attend must RSVP by Friday August 5, 2022 via email or mail. Email RSVPs can be sent to: FamilySupportMeeting@tcco.texas.gov. RSVPs via mail can be sent to the TCCO Office. The RSVP must include the following information:

- Name of everyone who will be attending;
- Name of the client;
- Relationship to the client;
- Email address or mailing address; and
- Phone number.

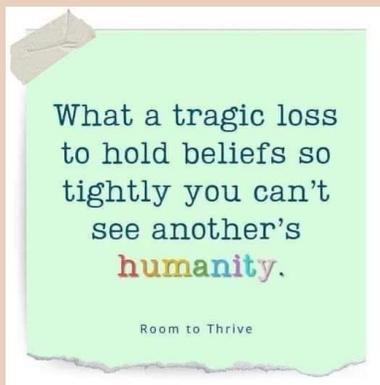
Space is limited and reservations will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. When responding to an RSVP, TCCO staff will provide instructions regarding

COVID protocols to be followed at the meeting.

Questions must be submitted by Monday August 8, 2022 via email to: FamilySupportMeeting@tcco.texas.gov for them to be addressed at the meeting.

Please note the following:

- Presenters will not be able to answer questions related to specific clients at the meeting.
- All attendees must be at least 18 years of age.
- All attendees shall remain respectful to others throughout the meeting.



TCCO's Response to TTN's Request to Join the Family and Support System Meeting

As soon as we at Texas Tea Newsletter saw this notice on the TCCO website, we wrote in a request to be part of this endeavor. We had high hopes that our organization would have a voice in the matter, as the publishings we produced would have first-hand accounts of the residents within the facility.

Unfortunately, Texas Tea Newsletter was denied access to the meeting, as we were deemed a media source. But within the email rejecting our request, we have had several of our pressing questions answered. Below you will find the various excuses and denials that TCCO puts forth to the public.

1) When searched on the web, the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, TX is described as a "mental health facility". What steps are you taking to provide adequate therapeutic treatment to the residents in hopes of "curing" them?

We are aware that google maps lists the TCCC as a mental health facility. We are not responsible for it having been listed as such and are unable to change the listing to be more accurate. The TCCC is a confined sex offender treatment facility. The clients at the TCCC are provided with sex offender treatment, case management services, medical care, mental health services (if needed), substance abuse treatment services, life skills classes and educational programming. The intent of the tiered treatment program is to provide the client with the skills and resources needed to lead a pro-social life that is not compatible with offending behavior. The ultimate goal is No More Victims.

2) I have heard claims about how there is repetitive use of polygraphs and penile plethysmographies upon the residents at the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, TX. Although we are dealing with individuals that have committed sex crimes, is it logical to deem these repetitive testings a violation of human rights?

Treatment and supervision programs typically utilize polygraph examinations and plethysmographs as part of the sex offender treatment program. Polygraphs are utilized to encourage and support clients in self-reporting past and current behavior and accountability as well as verifying compliance with treatment and supervision. It also assists in determining the risk and needs of clients. Plethysmographs is a diagnostic method to assess sexual arousal. There is an association between deviant sexual interests and sexual recidivism. This allows the client the opportunity to reinforce appropriate sexual arousal and for the treatment team to address deviant sexual arousal.

3) Why are the residents, including the outpatient residents, along with their families not given an estimated release date from the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, TX? Following this, if a resident is demoted a from their Tier Level, what steps are the case workers, therapists, and facility staff taking to provide the help needed to ensure the resident makes progress throughout the program?

Sex offender treatment is self-paced and therefore, it is up to the client to engage in treatment and internalize the concepts. Clients meet with their case manager at least monthly where they discuss progress. The case managers, therapist and facility staff encourage clients to progress through treatment. Each client's treatment team also meets on a regular basis to discuss the client's progress and areas of needed improvement.

4) What steps and changes are being made to ensure the family members are given the opportunity to be part of the resident's treatment?

Families and support systems are encouraged to be supportive of the client's treatment. In addition, families and collaterals are welcome to contact the client's case manager at any time for questions and insight on how the client is doing in treatment. Additionally, when a client experiences an issue or setback, the case manager will brief the collateral contacts so that they can provide additional support to the client.

5) There have been multiple reported deaths of residents at the Texas Civil Commitment Center in Littlefield, TX. What is lacking in the Medical Department within this facility that may have led to the unfortunate passings of these residents?

We agree that any loss of life is a tragedy. Accordingly, we have a contract with an outside agency to conduct an investigation on all deaths that occur at the TCCC as a standard operating procedure.



I firmly believe that if we do not stand for something, then we will fall for anything! Anything built on lies and deception will fail. The universe demands it.

